

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-09 COME-00 NAS-01 NSF-01
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-01 EPA-01 CEQ-01
OIC-02 SS-15 /067 W
-----020087 301548Z /50
P 301326Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3646

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PLEASE PASS BENTON, DEPT. OF COMMERCE; HANDLER, U.S.
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WMO, ICSU
SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS ON WMO/ICSU AGREEMENT, GENEVA,
AUGUST 28-29

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY GENERAL DAVIES OF WMO AND SECRETARY GENERAL SIR JOHN KENDREW OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS FOR A JOINT AGREEMENT FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE WORLD CLIMATE RESEARCH PROGRAM HAS REACHED AN IMPASSE. DISCUSSIONS TERMINATED WITH IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT. SIR JOHN KENDREW WAS ASSISTED BY DR. THOMAS F. MALONE, FOREIGN SECRETARY U.S. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AND DR. MICHAEL BAKER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ICSU. SECRETARY GENERAL DAVIES WAS ASSISTED BY WMO STAFF. DRAFT TEXT OF AGREEMENT WAS PREPARED BY DAVIES AND DELIVERED FRIDAY NIGHT, 25 AUGUST FOR NEGOTIATING SESSIONS SCHEDULED MONDAY MORNING 10AM, LATER RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY AFTERNOON AT 2PM, AUGUST 28. TIME AVAILABLE FOR KENDREW, MALONE AND BAKER TO REVIEW TEXT WAS MINIMAL.

2. ICSU REPRESENTATIVES IDENTIFIED 16 POINTS OF DISAGREE-
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MENT WITH WMO TEXT. MANY POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT WERE MINOR, AND IRONED OUT IN DISCUSSIONS MONDAY AFTERNOON. IMPASSE DEVELOPED OVER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY OF PROPOSED JOINT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND ITS SUPPORTING SCIENTIFIC STAFF WITHIN WMO STRUCTURE. ICSU PROPOSED DEGREE OF AUTONOMY PRESENTLY ENJOYED BY JOINT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM. DAVIES OPPOSED

THIS DEGREE OF AUTONOMY CITING FINANCIAL AND OTHER LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS.

3. ICSU REPRESENTATIVES JUDGED THAT DAVIES WAS ADAMANT AND NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON AUTONOMY QUESTION FOR JOINT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE. KENDREW AND BAKER DEPARTED MONDAY EVENING WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO MALONE TO INFORM DAVIES THAT WMO PROPOSALS UNACCEPTABLE. EARLY MONDAY EVENING, MALONE INFORMED DAVIES THAT ICSU HAD REACHED "END OF ROAD" LEAVING IMPLICATIONS THAT ICSU WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION.

4. FINAL SESSION TUESDAY MORNING, 29 AUGUST, PROVIDED FURTHER RESOLUTION OF IMPASSE. MALONE DEPARTED GENEVA TUESDAY NOON.

5. R.M. WHITE, FORMER ADMINISTRATOR, NOAA, PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN CLIMATE RESEARCH BOARD, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WHO SAT IN ON PART OF WMO/ICSU DISCUSSIONS MET SEPARATELY WITH DAVIES TUESDAY, ON WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE BUT DISCUSSED ICSU/WMO IMPASSE. WHITE INDICATED TO DAVIES HIS ESTIMATE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT U.S. DELEGATION TO ICSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE CONVENED IN ATHENS 22 SEPTEMBER HAD EXPECTED TO HAVE WMO/ICSU AGREEMENT IN CONSIDERATION. SITUATION NOW CREATES PROBLEMS FOR UNITED STATES AND OTHER ICSU DELE-

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GATIONS. U.S. DELEGATION TO ICSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATHENS WILL INCLUDE PHILIP HANDLER, PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, CONGRESSMAN GEORGE BROWN, CHAIRMAN-SUBCOMMITTEE ON ATMOSPHERE AND ENVIRONMENT OF HOUSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. BROWN WAS PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF U.S. CLIMATE PROGRAM ACT, 1978, AND KEENLY INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF CLIMATE. MALONE AND WHITE WILL BE MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO ICSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6. MALONE HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DR. JOHN MASON, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FROM U.K. TO WMO AND MLE. MARTIN-SANE OF FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMING THEM OF IMPASSE. WHITE'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT DAVIES HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY TURN OF EVENTS. WHITE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH. MALONE WILL RETURN TO U.S. ON 6TH SEPTEMBER. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, METEOROLOGY, NEGOTIATIONS, STUDIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WEATHER MODIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA13135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0382
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780810/aaaaahps.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fb38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1538000
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEGOTIATIONS ON WMO/ICSU AGREEMENT, GENEVA, AUGUST 28-29
TAGS: TPHY, WMO, ICSU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fb38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014